

To: Federal Communications Commission
From: Chad Murphy
Re: Importance of Community Access Television ICO Case 05-311
Date: 11/12/2018

First Amendment expression, community communication and involvement, individual and team trade education – this is what community access television means to our citizens.

As a near 23-year professional in video and events broadcast, I owe my career to the opportunities I found in community access television in Andover, Massachusetts. As both a student and volunteer, I leveraged the television facilities at Andover High School to learn a trade, keep audiences informed, and share entertainment programming.

These programs need to be maintained and supported by all appropriate means to keep these opportunities available for our learning youth and citizen communicators.

Yes, the emergence of social media has provided a new platform for sharing content, but this is no replacement for the vital role of a face-to-face, community-run enterprise like community access television. Thoughts are shared, teams build themselves up, experience is shared – this in-person connection cannot be replaced online.

These channels serve as a clear and pure medium for free speech, withing commonsense decency. During my time in a program, communication of individual points of view would always be allowed, provided that they were expressed in a respectful and professional manner – another learning opportunity for youth and adult members, alike.

Civic communication – let's not forget that in an age where time to attend governmental meetings is nil due to work, commutes, homework, and chores, community television is often the sole connection between citizens and their local leaders.

Please take all actions required to maintain the integrity of our vital community television access programs.

Best Regards,

Chad Murphy